

Message Text

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AMCONSUL STUTTGART

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PASS TO PAO'S

E.O. 11652: N/A

SUBJECT: NYT STORY ON WEST EUROPE "PRESTIGE POLL"

1. THE INFORMATION CONTAINED BELOW WILL BE USED BY US
IN ANSWER TO ANY QUESTIONS ABOUT OUR INFORMATION
CONCERNING GERMAN ATTITUDES TOWARDS THE UNITED STATES.

2. "PUBLIC OPINION POLLS CONDUCTED IN THE FEDERAL
REPUBLIC DURING THE PAST YEAR INDICATE ESSENTIALLY
POSITIVE ATTITUDES TOWARD THE UNITED STATES,
ESPECIALLY WHEN COMPARED TO GERMAN ATTITUDES TOWARD
OTHER COUNTRIES. MOREOVER, GERMANS TODAY HAVE A MORE
POSITIVE ATTITUDE TOWARD THE UNITED STATES THAN THEY
DID JUST A FEW YEARS AGO.

3. THE MOST RECENT (JUNE-JULY) POLL PUBLISHED BY
EMNID, FOR EXAMPLE, SHOWED THAT 81 PERCENT OF THE
RESPONDENTS THOUGHT IT WAS A GOOD IDEA FOR THE FRG "TO
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ESTABLISH ESPECIALLY GOOD RELATIONS WITH THE UNITED

STATES." IDENTICAL QUESTIONS POSED BY THIS INSTITUTE SINCE 1969 SHOW A TENDENCY -- WITH ONLY MINOR FLUCTUATIONS -- FOR THIS FIGURE TO RISE. IT WAS LOWEST (66 PERCENT) IN DECEMBER 1972 (PERHAPS BECAUSE OF THE WATERGATE REVELATIONS) AND ROSE TO A HIGH OF 82 PERCENT IN MARCH-APRIL 1975. WITH THE EXCEPTION OF FEBRUARY 1976, WHEN THE FIGURE DROPPED TO 77 PERCENT, IT HAS CONSISTENTLY BEEN ABOVE 80 PERCENT SINCE MARCH-APRIL 1975. IT IS ALSO WORTH NOTING THAT THESE EMNID POLLS INDICATE GERMANS ARE MORE INTERESTED IN IMPROVING OR MAINTAINING GOOD RELATIONS WITH THE UNITED STATES THAN WITH FRANCE, THE ARAB COUNTRIES, THE SOVIET UNION AND CHINA.

4. ANOTHER POLL (WICKERT) CONDUCTED THIS SUMMER SHOWED THAT 67 PERCENT OF THE GERMAN RESPONDENTS BELIEVED FRIENDSHIP WITH THE UNITED STATES "MOST IMPORTANT". IT IS NOTEWORTHY IN THIS POLL THAT THE COUNTRY TO FOLLOW THE UNITED STATES IN THIS QUESTION, FRANCE, RECEIVED ONLY 17 PERCENT, FOLLOWED BY GREAT BRITAIN, WITH 13 PERCENT. WICKERT SAID IT HAD POLLED 2,057 WEST GERMANS, ALL OF THEM "ELIGIBLE VOTERS" (OVER 18 YEARS OLD).

5. STILL ANOTHER POLL, THIS ONE CONDUCTED BY GETAS (THE BREMEN SOCIETY FOR APPLIED SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGY), DETERMINED THAT THE UNITED STATES HAD A HIGHER "SYMPATHY RATING" IN THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC THAN EITHER THE SOVIET UNION OR THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA. THE POLL, CONDUCTED IN MARCH, FOUND THAT MOST CITIZENS LINKED THE UNITED STATES WITH SUCH CONCEPTS AS FREEDOM AND SECURITY.

6. A POLL COMMISSIONED BY THE FEDERAL PRESS OFFICE AND PUBLISHED IN FEBRUARY THIS YEAR SHOWED THAT, FOR MOST GERMANS, THE UNITED STATES SHOULD REMAIN "PARTNER NUMBER ONE". DETAILS OF THE SURVEY, WHICH WAS CARRIED OUT BY THE ALLENSBACH INSTITUTE, WERE NOT MADE AVAILABLE, BUT ACCORDING TO NEWSPAPER ACCOUNTS THE MAJORITY OF PERSONS QUESTIONED EXPRESSED THEMSELVES UNCLASSIFIED

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IN FAVOR OF GOOD RELATIONS WITH THE UNITED STATES."
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